Letters to the Editor

Idle Schools

Our idle schools should be cause for worry, when such a large percentage of the tax dollar is required for educational purposes. It is surprising how very little use is made of our school buildings, if the following figures are compiled:

The number of hours class rooms stand idle on regular school days?

The number of days class rooms stand completely idle during the year?

The small percentage of finished floor space, in new schools, that is utilized for class rooms?

Those attracted to service on education boards are not always the most practical minded citizens of a community. A far greater curb should be placed on their spending authority.

This problem extends from Nova Scotia, where I was born, to Vancouver Island, where I have come to retire. It should be worthy of study by all levels of government in Canada.

G. B. DAVIES.

241 Gorge Road, E.

Indiscriminate Killing

The excuse given by many people for keeping wild animals in captivity is that it is "educational" for children to see them in cages. I should think it would be far better for children, or anyone else, to see animals in their natural habitat.

If these trigger-happy characters, who pretend to be sportsmen, are allowed to shoot at everything they see that won't be possible.

People should have to pay a fairly large licence fee for carrying any kind of a gun. Perhaps that would discourage indiscriminate killing of animals.

(MRS.) E. WAKEFIELD.

1430 Simon Road.

Live and Let Live

Seals and sea lions are intelligent creatures created with a given purpose, as are all things in nature. They herd the schools of salmon like sheepdogs, and bring them back to the rivers to propagate their species. They do not deplete the salmon, although they do eat some fish for their very own existence. Commercial fishermen dislike the seals mainly because they get entangled and damage their fish-nets.

rowboat, and running through a herd of sea lions, but was rowboat, and running through a herd of seallions, but was not molested nor threatened; they are harmless to man.

Man is the chief means of depleting the salmon with his nets, and in dumping bilge oil on the waters; this also destroys thousands of seabirds. Without government supervision they would deplete all fish, like salmon, halibut, etc.

Live and let live is a very good motto for everyone; there is no reason for the wanton destruction of any living animal.

ARTHUR LEVY.

547 Michigan Street.

Pushed Too Far

Three cheers for the Colonist in printing the "sea lion slayer's" side of the story. It is about time someone stood up to the SPCA's spectacular versions of anything out of the ordinary, and the public were supplied the facts as they actually are—not the way the SPCA would like us to believe them.

I would like to point out that there is a great deal of difference between destroying a dog with a revolver, as has been witnessed on the local SPCA grounds, and destroying a mammal with a high-powered rifle from an open boat—which is evidently also not breaking any law. Mr. Creed stated that the first shot struck the sea lion in the head, and I would certainly agree that unless the very first shot landed in the head or some other vital spot, he or anyone else would not have a chance for a second shot. The mammal would dive immediately.

Whether Mr. Creed was right or wrong in killing a bull sea lion should not stir the SPCA or anyone else into calling down this particular man or any other person who has ever picked up a gun or fishing rod—classifying them as, to quote Mr. Leach, "sordid killing, which exemplifies the trigger-happy attitude of many so-called sportsmen." This is pushing the average free-thinking man, sportsman or not, just a little too far.

V. G. BRUCE.

P.O. Box 314, Victoria.

Red China's Export

Opium Weapon

By WILMON MENARD
North American Newspaper Alliance

Only seven countries in the world today have been approved by the United Nations as legal exporters of opium: Bulgaria, Greece, India, Iran, Turkey, Soviet Russia and Yugoslavia.

From the supplies of these countries, 40 tons of morphine are derived—the legal yearly limit and enough to fill the world's medical needs.

This legal opium, exported on the world market, costs between $25,000 to $50,000 a ton; Smyrna, or Turkish opium is the highest quality.

Illicity, however, opium is sold to addicts in North America for about $75 an ounce, or at the rate of $2,400,000 a ton—approximately 100 times the medical price.

Most of the world's illicit opiates now can be traced to Communist China. Although outlawed for home consumption, Peiping is said to earn more than $250,000,000 in hard currencies every year from narcotic shipments. According to Harry J. Anslinger, U.S. narcotics commissioner, Red China today is responsible for 65 per cent of the illicit traffic in opiates.

The ministry of the interior of the Chinese Nationalist government in Taiwan has supplied documented proof to world narcotic agencies that Red China has expanded her opium-poppy planations from 300,000 acres in 1952 to 900,000 acres today and is exporting more than 12 times the legal medical needs for all opiates.

North Korea in recent years has become the chief partner of Red China in smuggling addictive drugs to the West. Commissioner Anslinger has reported to the UN that:

"When the UN forces moved through North Korea in October, 1950, a warehouse of the ministry of commerce in Yyongyang contained large quantities of opium and morphine. There were at least 300 boxes of opium weighing from 30 to 50 pounds each, while the morphine in one-pound cans was in quantity sufficient to fill two or three rooms of approximately 10 feet by 12 feet."

Hong Kong remains the chief entrepot for Red China's opium smuggling to the West.

The bosses of the world opium trade are well known, both to British and American narcotic agents. Ironically, they are officials of the so-called "opium prohibition bureau" of Red China, a bureau which with one hand tries to blot out addiction in China—and, with the other, foists tons of the opiates onto the free world.

The responsible persons on this board, so far as is known to date, are Po I Po, Yie Chih Chuang and, probably the real boss, Wang Fei Chi. Men such as these are waging a ruthless war against the West, poisoning thousands in America and Europe with mass-produced narcotics.

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'Mass Evacuation' Theories Bring Laugh

West's Planners Ignorant of A-Bombs

Rebuilt Hiroshima Snorts at Civil Defence

By COURTNEY TOWER
Ex-Colonist Reporter, Now in the Far East

HIROSHIMA — Those who fight against public apathy about civil defence in Victoria would have an even tougher battle on their hands here.

The people in this city of experts on what an atomic bomb can do—one of every four present residents experienced the searing, crumbling destruction of the first nuclear weapon to be hurled against men—have never heard of the concept.

Attempt to explain the pet "mass evacuation" theories of Canada's civil defence planners to them and they laugh outright.

* * *

Or, with an infinite gentleness, they direct you to the new A-Bomb Memorial Museum and its incredibly stark story of a city and more than 200,000 persons wiped out under one mushroom cloud Aug. 6, 1945.

A query about the efficiency of civil defence brought from Mayor Tamabe Watanabe the closest thing to a snort of ridicule that a person so august as a Japanese mayor can achieve.

"They (the planners) think this way because of their ignorance of what an atomic bomb can do," the 60-year-old lawyer said through an interpreter during an interview in his office.

There is no cifil defence system in all of Japan because "it would be quite useless in an A-bomb attack," he said. It might be "of some use" in incendiary bombings, but they are now "pretty well outmoded," he said.

* * *

COURTNEY TOWER
'. . . Never again'

People at San Diego, Calif., last year told him of a plan to evacuate the city's population in two hours.

"That was crazy."

"Suppose they did know about the attack two hours before the bomb, could they get out of the city? And if they could, considering the great destructive powers of present nuclear bombs, a thousand-fold over our little A-bomb, could they get out of the whole area?"

* * *

Hiroshima's "little" bomb was mighty enough to wipe out three-fifths of the city when a U.S. B-29 bomber dropped it from a clear sky at 8.15 a.m. Aug. 6, 1945. More than 200,000 persons are now estimated to have died then and later, and 60,000 buildings were destroyed.

Seventy-five hours and one U.S. presidential ultimatum later, Nagasaki, port city 200 miles northwest, was bombed. There 74,000 persons died, and Japan surrendered, ending the Second World War.

* * *

"The only way to avoid such a catastrophe again is to stop making atomic bombs," Mayor Watanabe said. . . .

This seemed the consensus of opinion in this island city of more than 400,000 people at the entrance to Japan's Inland Sea, a great military depot and supply centre until the blast, where there are still 100,000 survivors of the bombing. Many still fill government and private hospitals, and thousands are regularly checked by the U.S.-Japan Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, a fact-hunting agency on atomic radiation effects.

The feeling has expanded into a widespread neutralist sentiment in Japan, that the country should become the "Switzerland of the Orient."

"The people feel that for the atom bomb there is no defence," reported Miss Mary McMillan, a white-haired, Florida-born missionary. She has spent most of the past 20 years in Japan, and has built a house with a Japanese family who lost theirs in the blast.

* * *

She and Masao Niide, a City Hall expert, both said that what resentment remains here against the nation that unleashed the bomb is now directed against nuclear weapon production. But they said Communist elements trying to exploit this feeling are making no headway.

Hiroshima is now largely rebuilt, though social worker Yuzo Yamamoto says there is still much "reconstruction" physically and spiritually to be carried out for the bomb victims.

* * *

Fine new streets and buildings provide a showplace contrast to the cramped, higgledy-piggledy layout of most Japanese cities.

The only building of those ruined that has been left to stand is the shell of a once-imposing industrial exhibition building. Directly over it, the bomb had burst. Ironically, little stands there still sell "bomb souvenirs."

Nearby are the Peace Memorial Hall, Peace Bridge, Peace Park and Peace Boulevard — all symbolizing the over-riding aim left with the people after the first frustrated hate had worn away.

The words on the cenotaph end ". . . for never again will we repeat the mistake."

U.S. Imposing Trade Policy

Pressure on Canada

An iceberg, so we are told, is nine-tenths below water. So it seems is the true state of U.S. influence on Canadian exports.

A year or so ago it was Ford of Canada. Now it's the Aluminum Company of Canada. Both are cases where U.S. policy was directly, in the case of Ford, or indirectly, in the case of Alcan, responsible for possible loss of export trade by Canada. In both cases the export would have been of Canadian goods, by Canadian companies, into China. The U.S. prohibits its nationals from any dealings with mainland China.

* * *

The Ford and Alcan cases point up the two principal areas of conflict with the U.S. Ford of Canada, a direct subsidiary of the U.S. Ford, was told by its parent that any dealings by it with China could result in action in the U.S. against the parent firm. This is a straightforward form of pressure that could be relieved only by policy decisions of the U.S. government.

The Alcan case, however, is somewhat more intricate. It is also more important because it may prove to be the more common form of pressure. In this case, Alcan, a direct subsidiary of Aluminium Ltd., a Canadian company, decided not to quote on a Chinese bid for 2,000 long tons of aluminum because of fear of economic reprisals in the U.S., a major market. There was no direct threat of reprisal. All that held Alcan back was a fear of reprisal. This can certainly be a most persuasive form of pressure.

* * *

It is exactly this type of pressure that most needs to be examined. Although the villan may be a shadow—the figment of a corporate imagination—the result is painfully real. The enormity of a situation where Canadian businessmen are barred from legal trade by direct pressure from the U.S. on one hand, and by indirect pressure from the U.S. on the one hand, and by indirect pressure through fear of reprisals on the other, belies pious platitudes of friendship, alliances and good neighbor policies. A few isolated occurences could be inadvertent accidents. A series of occurrences in major commodities and products is not an accident.

* * *

In summary, Alcan needed the order and there was evidence the inquiry was in good faith. What can Alcan do? It asked the U.S. Treasury Department if the sale would contravene U.S. regulations, U.S. citizens controlling or owning shares in foreign subsidiaries can be prosecuted if those subsidiaries trade with China.

It may be that preposterous regulations produce preposterous results. The concept that shareholders who do not hold control should be punished for the action of those who do is probably no more fatuous than Alcan's action in running to the Treasury Department for an opinion.

* * *

(An intriguing sidelight on Alcan's action in consulting the U.S. Treasury is speculation that effective control of Aluminium Ltd. may rest with a major shareholder in the U.S. The U.S. company, in this speculation, is thought to be Reynolds Metal Co., a major aluminum producer.)

* * *

Events have shown Prime Minister Diefenbaker was mistaken in accepting President Eisenhower's recent assurances about protecting Canadian interests as meekly as he did. Canada should have stated the U.S. reply to protests was no real answer. It obviously was a mistake to pretend that the matter had been settled.

The U.S. has a clear policy in regard to China trade. It is evident this policy will be imposed in every practicable manner upon Canada.

Divorced from de Gaulle

Extremists Lose Out

By BERNARD KAPLAN
North American Newspaper Alliance

The divorce between President de Gaulle and the feverishly extreme right wing in Algeria is now complete.

It was never considered much more than a shotgun wedding on one side and a marriage of convenience on the other. Paris officials by initiating an open and all but irrevocable break, the Algiers "mob" has played squarely into de Gaulle's hands.

The abuse accorded Prime Minister Michel Debre on his first visit to Algiers fell short of the rotten eggs and overripe tomatoes that were the French settlers' accolade to earlier premiers suspected of betraying their hopes. But the hostility this time, while verbal only, was clearly heartfelt. Mingled with jeers for the somewhat bewildered Debre were scurrilous denunciations of the president of the republic himself.

There were more significant differences from the street demonstrations of the past. Though some shouts of "the army to power" were voiced, top-ranking army commanders, including Gen. Jacques Massu, remained unflinchingly at Debre's side during the storm of abuse. Massu was the hero of last May's coup, but his presence on this occasion was insufficient to quell the crowd's anger.

He and other high officers were reported "disgusted" by the outburst. It greatly accentuated their distaste for the methods and personalities of many of the civilians with whom they deal in Algeria, a distaste that has been gradually mounting almost from the moment their joint efforts brought about the fall of the Fourth Republic last spring.

The biggest result of the Debre visit, informants here believe, may be to draw the army in Algeria further away from the extreme rightist camp there and closer in fact, as well is in theory, to de Gaulle. France's leader can be counted on not to let this advantage slip by. He is known to believe that the key to an Algerian solution lies in weaning the army away from "integration" or, if that proves impossible, lessening its on-the-spot power.

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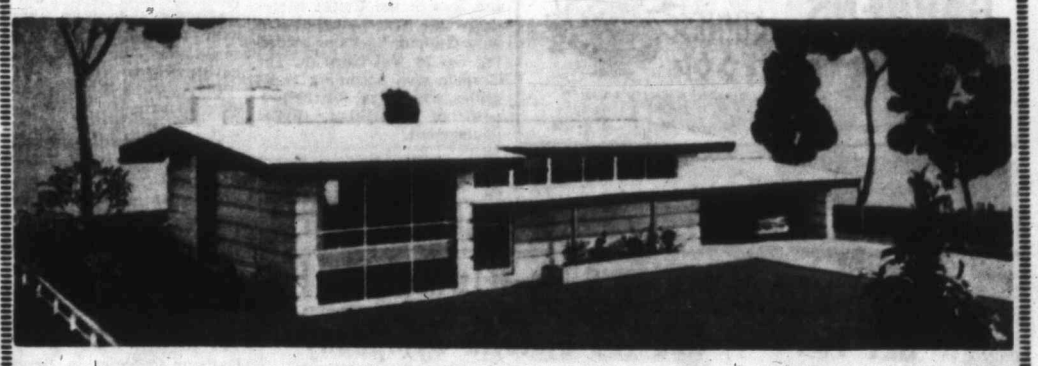
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